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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/872,701	06/01/2001	Steven W. Lundberg	1551.013US1	2505
70859	7590	08/10/2007		
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER/CPA P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			EXAMINER SAEED, USMAAN	
			ART UNIT 2166	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/872,701

Applicant(s)

LUNDBERG, STEVEN W.

Examiner

Usmaan Saeed

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 16-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 16-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/15/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/15/2007 has been entered.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed on 5/15/2007 has been received, entered and considered. See attached form PTO-1449.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

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under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-13 and 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Simpson et al. (Simpson hereinafter)** (US Patent No. 6,549,894) in view of **Lee et al. (Lee hereinafter)** (U.S. Patent No. 6,839,707).

With respect to claim 1, **Simpson** teaches a **system for managing patent application data via the Internet, comprising:**

**“a matter module, the matter module operable to manage data relating to patent matters, the managed data comprising docketing data”** as (**Simpson Col 5, Lines 5-27**).

**“a tasks module, the tasks module operable to manage tasks related to each matter managed by the matter module, the tasks comprising docketing tasks”** as (**Simpson Col 1, Lines 66-67 and Col 2, Lines 1-36**).

**“a security module, the security module operable to restrict access to patent application task and matter data management to selected system users”** as (**Simpson Col 5, Lines 28-48**).

**“a messaging module operable to provide messaging to users of the system, wherein the messaging comprises automated message to particular**

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**users, the message relating to matters and tasks associated with the particular users and stored in a manner searchable and retrievable by matter” as (Simpson Col 5, Lines 5-67 and Abstract)**

**Simpson teaches the elements of claim 1 as noted above but does not explicitly teaches “a security module, the security module operable to restrict Internet access to patent application task and matter data management to selected system users.”**

**However, Lee discloses “a security module, the security module operable to restrict Internet access to patent application task and matter data management to selected system users” as (Lee Figure 4 and Figures 1-2).**

**Further, Lee discloses “a messaging module operable to provide messaging to users of the system, wherein the messaging comprises automated message to particular users, the message relating to matters and tasks associated with the particular users and stored in a manner searchable and retrievable by matter” as (Lee Col 1, Lines 32-44, Col 6, Lines 4-9 and Figure 4).**

**It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because Lee’s teaching would have allowed Simpson to provide management tools configured to drive accountability and performance and to improve operational efficiency by providing a fully integrated on-line web based communication tool.**

With respect to claim 2-4, **Simpson** teaches “**wherein managing data relating to patents matters comprises creating new patent matter data, retrieving patent matter data and editing patent matter data**” as (Simpson Col 7, Lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 5, **Simpson** teaches “**wherein managing tasks related to managed matters comprises automated creation of tasks**” as (Simpson Col 3, Lines 6-8).

With respect to claim 6, **Simpson** teaches “**wherein managing tasks related to managed matters comprises user creation of tasks**” as (Simpson Col 7, Lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 7-10, **Simpson** teaches “**wherein managing tasks related to managed matters comprises retrieving tasks for a particular matter, user organization and editing tasks**” as (Simpson Col 7, Lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 11, **Simpson** teaches “**wherein managing tasks related to managed matters comprises viewing a calendar of tasks**” as (Simpson Figures 5A-5C and Figure 7).

With respect to claims 12-13 **Simpson** teaches “**wherein the security module requires a user to log in before granting access to matter or task data, and**

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**wherein the security module further grants the logged in user access only to those matters and tasks to which the user has been granted access and, wherein users are granted access to matters and tasks by the creator of each matter or task” as (Simpson Col 7, Lines 1-12 and Figure 2).**

14-15. (Canceled).

With respect to claim 16, **Simpson** teaches **“wherein the messaging comprises a user sending messages to other users” as (Simpson Col 3, Lines 4-17).**

With respect to claim 17, **Simpson** does not explicitly teaches **“wherein the messaging module is further operable to send electronic mail (e-mail) to users, the e-mail comprising information relating to the user's role in managed tasks and matters.”**

However, **Lee** discloses **“wherein the messaging module is further operable to send electronic mail (e-mail) to users, the e-mail comprising information relating to the user's role in managed tasks and matters” as (Lee Figure 4).**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Lee's** teaching would have allowed **Simpson** to provide management tools configured to drive

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accountability and performance and to improve operational efficiency by providing a fully integrated on-line web based communication tool.

With respect to claim 18-20, **Simpson** does not explicitly teaches **“wherein the system comprises world wide web site, application server pages and java server pages.”**

However, **Lee** discloses **“wherein the system comprises world wide web site, application server pages and java server pages”** as (Lee Figure 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because **Lee’s** teaching would have allowed **Simpson** to provide management tools configured to drive accountability and performance and to improve operational efficiency by providing a fully integrated on-line web based communication tool.

With respect to claim 21, **Simpson** teaches **“wherein the system further comprises a database for managing patent application”** as (Simpson Abstract).

With respect to claim 22 and 23, **Simpson** does not explicitly teaches **“wherein the system comprises multiple databases and is able to exchange data between multiple databases and synchronizing data in databases by publishing changes to one database to the other associated databases.”**



However, Lee discloses **“wherein the system comprises multiple databases and is able to exchange data between multiple databases”** as (Lee Figure 2) and **“synchronizing data in databases by publishing changes to one database to the other associated databases”** as (Lee Abstract and Figure 18).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because Lee's teaching would have allowed Simpson to provide management tools configured to drive accountability and performance and to improve operational efficiency by providing a fully integrated on-line web based communication tool.

With respect to claim 24, Simpson teaches **“wherein multiple matters may be associated with each other, such that data relating to one of the multiple matters will be visible when viewing data relating to another of the multiple matters”** as (Simpson Figure 5A).

25-96. (Cancelled).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 5/15/2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

See above rejections for the arguments.

Claims must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation during examination and limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim (See M.P.E.P. 2111 [R-I]).

### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usmaan Saeed whose telephone number is (571)272-4046. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571)272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Usmaan Saeed  
Patent Examiner

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Leslie Wong *LW*  
Primary Examiner

US  
July 26, 2007

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